



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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**Statement by Council President Steve Silverman regarding
Maryland State Court of Appeals ruling
In support of Domestic Partner Benefits for County Employees**

"I'm pleased that the Maryland State Court of Appeals has upheld Montgomery County's 'Employee Benefits Equity Act of 1999,' which the Council passed on November 30, 1999.

"This common-sense law allows domestic partners of County employees to have access to the same benefits as the spouses of County employees. More than 70 government jurisdictions and over 500 companies -- including some of our nation's most successful -- have already adopted domestic partner benefits.

"Domestic partner benefits are all about eliminating discrimination and ensuring simple fairness for all County employees.

"We fully expected this decision and we are happy to finally receive it."

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